

## 9 FAM Appendix C, KOREA, SOUTH

(TL:VISA-450; 08-08-2002)

### RECIPROCITY

(TL:VISA-450; 08-08-2002)

Class	Fee	No. Applications	Validity Period
A-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
A-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
A-3 [1]	NONE	MULTIPLE	24 MONTHS
B-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	120 MONTHS
B-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	120 MONTHS
B-1/B-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	120 MONTHS
C-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
C-1/D	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
C-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	12 MONTHS
C-3	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
D	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
E-1 [2]	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
E-2 [2]	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
F-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
F-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
G-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
G-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
G-3	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
G-4	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
G-5 [1]	NONE	MULTIPLE	24 MONTHS
H-1B	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
H-1C	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
H-2A	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
H-2B	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
H-3	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
H-4	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
I	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
J-1 [4]	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
J-2 [4]	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
K-1	NONE	ONE	6 MONTHS
K-2	NONE	ONE	6 MONTHS
K-3	NONE	MULTIPLE	24 MONTHS
K-4	NONE	MULTIPLE	24 MONTHS
L-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
L-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
M-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
M-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
N-8	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
N-9	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
NATO 1-7	N/A	N/A	N/A
O-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
O-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]

O-3	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
P-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
P-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
P-3	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
P-4	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
Q-1 [6]	NONE	MULTIPLE	15 MONTHS [3]
R-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
R-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
S-5 [7]	NONE	ONE	1 MONTH
S-6 [7]	NONE	ONE	1 MONTH
S-7 [7]	NONE	ONE	1 MONTH
T-1 [9]	N/A	N/A	N/A
T-2	NONE	ONE	6 MONTHS
T-3	NONE	ONE	6 MONTHS
T-4	NONE	ONE	6 MONTHS
TD [5]	N/A	N/A	N/A
V-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	120 MONTHS
V-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	120 MONTHS [8]
V-3	NONE	MULTIPLE	120 MONTHS [8]

## SPECIAL CLEARANCE AND ISSUANCE PROCEDURES

*(TL:VISA-232; 01-29-2001)*

Posts with CLASS capability should not send IV clearance requests to Seoul unless a CLASS check indicates derogatory information on file there.

When requesting clearances, posts should provide DOBs, birth names, and KID numbers, where available. The KID number is located on the right side of the DOB on the data page of Korean passports issued in Korea, but not on passports issued elsewhere.

**NOTE:** KID numbers for males begin with "1" and KID numbers for females begin with "2". If the KID number is not available from the passport, then the name and DOB will suffice.

## DOCUMENTS AND RECORDS

### Police Record

*(TL:VISA-381; 04-02-2002)*

Korean National Police (KNP) is available, but of limited value, for both Koreans and non-Koreans who were physically present in South Korea after 1945. KNPC is usually unavailable for persons who were present in Korea only before 1945. The KNPC may not include derogatory information essential to determining visa eligibility due to a 1980 Korean law that expunges certain data regarding crimes and convictions at stipulated times after sentences have been served. This data is expunged according to the nature of both the crime and the subsequent punishment. Short of an applicant's admission to an expunged crime, it is impossible to know the complete criminal record of a KNPC subject.

The Korean National Police (KNP) perform KNPC checks of Korean citizens according to each Korean citizen's unique, lifetime Korean identification number, found on Korean national identity cards and Korean passports adjacent to the applicant's name. KNPC checks of non-Koreans are done according to the requestor's name, nationality and date of birth. If the passport number is available, they will use that also. In some cases, it will be more helpful to their search if we include the phrase "the above subject's name may be inexact" on the Form SEO-11.

KNPCs are only available by official request through U.S. Embassy Seoul SEOUL/CONS/IV and not from individual applicants. To obtain a KNPC, a visa applicant must submit Form SEO-11 and supporting documents to the U.S. consular section which is processing the immigrant visa application. The U.S. consular section will forward the SEO-11 to U.S. Embassy SEOUL/CONS/IV, which will send it in turn to the KNP for processing. The KNP takes three weeks to process a KNPC once it receives all documents from post. The KNP does not accept "rush" requests. There is no fee for the KNP. The KNP will only process one KNPC request per applicant every two years.

Korean citizens residing in Korea must submit two copies of Form SEO-11 with two photographs, 4 x 4 cm., and one copy each of their Family Census Register (FCR) (hojeokdeungbon) and Residence Register (Jumindeungnok Deungbon) issued within the last three months. Married women must submit two copies of Form SEO-11 with two photographs, 4 x 4 cm., and one copy of the FCR from which she was removed after her marriage. Korean citizens residing outside of Korea must submit two copies of Form SEO-11 with one copy of their FCR and a photocopy of their passport identity page. Citizens of all other countries must submit one Form SEO-11 and a photocopy of their passport identity page.

## **Court Record**

*(TL:VISA-127; 10-13-1995)*

Available. Records of court judgments are maintained at the Records Section of the District Public Prosecutor's Office. A certified copy of judgment (Pangyulmoon) may be issued either to Koreans or non-Koreans upon application in person or by letter. The application must include full name, date of birth, permanent legal domicile, date of conviction, place of conviction and the purpose for which the copy of the court judgment is required.

## **Military Record**

*(TL:VISA-127; 10-13-1995)*

Unavailable.

## **Birth, Marriage, Divorce and Other Records**

*(TL:VISA-232; 01-29-2001)*

Available. Family Register (Hojuk-Deong-Bon) is the official public record of a Korean citizen. The Family Register contains records of birth, marriage, divorce, adoption, death, etc. The Family Register may be obtained from Korean Government offices (Ku-Chong in urban areas, Up-Samooso and Myon-Samooso in suburban areas). There may be a fee for these services. Mail-in applications should include return postage.

In case a person is unable to obtain a certified copy of the Family Register because of the birth place where the original Family Register is kept is in North Korea, or because the applicant is an orphan, a so-called Provisional Family Register should be established. This is done by submitting an application to the Mayor's office or Office of Township of present residence (or of last address in Korea, if applying outside of Korea) and by obtaining certified copies of the Provisional Family Register. At the request of an applicant, this procedure is ordinarily handled through a notary public authorized to handle such legal proceedings. The notaries' lists are available at Ward Offices (Koo-Chong) and District Courts. If unable to correspond in Korean, the applicant may wish to seek the help of an English-speaking lawyer in Korea, listed in the Consular Section, U.S. Embassy, Unit #15550, APO AP 96205-0001.

## **Adoption Certificate**

*(TL:VISA-232; 01-29-2001)*

Available. A court certificate of adoption may be obtained from the district court having jurisdiction over the adopted child's residence of record in Korea. The child's family register is required, containing full details of the adoption, including full names, dates and places of birth of the adoptive parents of the adopted person, and of the natural parents of the adopted person, if known.

## **Passports: Information on Travel Documents**

*(TL:VISA-232; 01-29-2001)*

The Korean government began issuing machine-readable passports on January 1, 1994. However, the old version of the Korean passport will continue to be issued at Korean Consulates until supplies are exhausted. The new passport is valid for an initial five-year period; it is extendible for an additional five years.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs advises that they issue passports according to the following guidelines:

(1) Twelve month validity or less: Koreans may carry a limited validity passport for one of several reasons and it is impossible to ascertain the reason for the limited validity by examining the passport book itself. Reasons for the issuance of limited passports include:

(a) Self-Choice: Applicants who wish to avoid the W45,000 fee for full validity can chose a one year passport, which costs only W15,000 (as of January 1998). This is the "PS" type passport and contains eight pages.

(b) Pending Court Action: The Korean National Police can stipulate a one year passport be issued to persons under investigation or persons whose mandatory police clearance is pending for any reason. In the most serious cases, the Police can request that no passport be issued. In cases where passport applicants are involved in a pending court action, they must request permission from the public prosecutor's office to receive a passport.

(c) Conscription: Korea has nearly universal conscription. Draft-age males may not be issued a passport at all, or may be issued passports of varying limited validities. Embassy Seoul was advised in early 1998 that Korean males born between 1981 and 1985 will routinely be issued limited validity passports (with expiration dates as close as 31DEC98 or as distant as 31DEC2002). Males born earlier than 1981 who have not completed their military obligation or who are not otherwise ineligible for service, must seek special permission from the Manpower Recruitment Administration [Byongmuchung] for passport issuance. If granted, the validity of the limited passport will vary from case to case. The six months validity passport described in earlier Transmittal Letters (TLs) of Appendix C is no longer used, having been replaced by the sliding scale system described above.

(2) Five year validity: This 42-page passport is the standard Korean issue; its type is "PM". The "PR" or "R" version of this is used for emigration to other countries and as a replacement to Koreans already resident abroad. Although the five-year validity is the norm, males between 13 and 17 years of age are not given a passport with validity beyond December 31st of the year when they turn 17. This is done to keep track of them for military conscription purposes. There are also "PO" (official) and "PD" (diplomatic) passports issued.

(3) Other Unusual Validity: In some cases you will see the validity set at an arbitrary number of months and a stamp on page five of the passport to restrict extensions. If this is the passport of a male, ages 18-22, it may have something to do with pending military service. In all other cases, this kind of passport notation may indicate a false DOB or KID number. The restriction resulted from the routine police check being unable to identify the applicant. When the police finally match the applicant to his record, it usually, but not always, turns out that he has a criminal record. These cases should be sent to Cons and/or INV Seoul for investigation.

## **VISA ISSUING POST**

*(TL:VISA-127; 10-13-1995)*

Seoul (E) All Categories

Address: APO AP 96205-9600

## **GEOGRAPHIC AREA SERVICED**

*(TL:VISA-232; 01-29-2001)*

All of Korea.